United Nations A/55/672–S/2000/1161

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
7 December 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 64
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 6 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 6 December 2000, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-78709 (E) 081200

Annex to the letter dated 6 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the statement made by a representative of the Greek Cypriot administration at the meeting of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), held on 9 November 2000, under agenda item 86 (Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects), which distorts historical facts pertaining to the Cyprus issue and contains false allegations against my country. It is my duty to respond to these allegations and to put the record straight.

The Greek Cypriot representative has alleged that the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) was established "in 1964 following the first Turkish attempt to interfere in Cyprus". This allegation is grossly misleading. The truth is that Turkey, as a guarantor power under the 1960 Agreements, exercised utmost restraint and patience in the face of massive provocations and atrocities by the Greek Cypriot side between 1963 and 1974. It is a well-documented fact that UNFICYP was established under Security Council resolution 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964 and dispatched to the island in order to prevent the massacre of the Turkish Cypriot people at the hands of the Greek Cypriots. An earlier intervention by the British forces in Cyprus was also designed to stop violence following the Greek Cypriot onslaught against defenceless Turkish Cypriots throughout the island. The record of a meeting held between the then British Prime Minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home and the United States Attorney-General Robert Kennedy, on 26 January 1964 is revealing. At this meeting, the Commonwealth Secretary Duncan Sandys summarized the situation as follows: " ... British forces had gone into Cyprus because they were the closest 'fire brigade' available. If they had not done so, there would probably have been a massacre of the Turkish Cypriots ... ." (Public Record Office, PREM 11/4704). Unfortunately, massacres did take place despite the involvement of the British forces, as George W. Ball, the United States Under-Secretary of State at the time, who visited the island in February 1964, records in his memoirs: "Three or four vignettes of my Cyprus days stand out sharply in my memory. A massacre took place in Limassol on the south coast in which, as I recall, about fifty Turkish Cypriots were killed, in some cases by bulldozers crushing their flimsy houses." (*The Past Has Another Pattern*, p. 341). Furthermore, Mr. Ball recalls having reported to Washington, D.C. at the time that " ... The Greek Cypriots ... do not want a peacekeeping force; they just want to be left alone to kill Turkish Cypriots." (ibid., p. 345).

The Greek Cypriot representative has referred to the legitimate Turkish intervention in Cyprus in 1974 as an "invasion". I would like to emphasize that Turkey intervened in Cyprus, in accordance with her rights and obligations under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, following the Greek-Greek Cypriot coup d'état in July 1974, the aim of which was the annexation of the island by Greece. Turkish intervention not only prevented the colonization of the island by Greece but also the annihilation of the Turkish Cypriot people at the hands of the Greek Cypriots and the invading Greek troops.

The Greek Cypriot administration is attempting once again to misrepresent the realities on the island by setting aside the above-mentioned reasons for UNFICYP's arrival on the island as well as the events which led to the Turkish intervention. The fact of the matter is that the Greek Cypriot administration, using its usurped title of

the "government of Cyprus", not only prevented UNFICYP from carrying out its functions but also took advantage of UNFICYP's presence on the island in implementing its plans for the persecution of the Turkish Cypriot people. The following report in the British daily newspaper *The Guardian* of 10 August 1964 was pertinent to the subject: "The President's [Makarios] sincerity in its dealings with the United Nations has been questionable for a long time. He would not permit the United Nations forces to disarm civilians; he would not permit them to control or even to witness the furtive, nocturnal reinforcements of the Greek Cypriot forces. As lately as yesterday his men were preventing the United Nations from evacuating Turkish women and children from villages where their lives were in danger. ... The Government of Cyprus used the United Nations presence on the island as a cloak for its own warlike preparations."

The Greek Cypriot representative has also tried to make an issue out of the situation in the village of Akyar in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in order to exploit it for political purposes. I would like to reiterate that the establishment of a checkpoint at Akyar is a step taken within our own territory in the context of the measures vis-à-vis our relations with UNFICYP after the adoption of resolution 1303 (2000) by the Security Council on 14 June 2000, without the addendum to the Secretary-General's relevant report, which refers to the indispensable principle of the consent of both parties in extending the mandate of the Force. This principle is also underlined in the Brahimi report (A/55/305-S/2000/809) in paragraph 48:

> "The Panel concurs that consent of the local parties, impartiality and use of force only in self-defence should remain the bedrock principles of peacekeeping ... "

The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus will continue to insist on a settlement on the basis of two states in order to prevent the usurpation, once again, of the title of a future partnership in Cyprus by the Greek Cypriot side. A settlement on the basis of two states not only reflects the realities of the island but also respects the sovereign and equal rights of both peoples as well as their security interests. The denial of the equal and sovereign rights of the Turkish Cypriot people by the Greek Cypriot side constitutes a major impediment to a settlement in Cyprus. It is up to the international community to remove this obstacle towards peace and stability in the island.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus